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POEMS.

LAURA, or, The COMPLAINT:

ODE on the POWER of MUSIC:

The VALETUDINARIAN:

On the DEATH of his ROYAL HIGHNESS

FREDERICK PRINCE of WALES,

By a GENTLEMAN of CAMBRIDGE.



LONDON:

Printed for John Whiston and Benjamin White, at Boyle's Head, and W. Sandby at the Ship, both in Fleet-Street.

M DCC LIII.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THAT the following poems have pleased a few, gave room to hope they might please more. The Complaint was occasioned by the real misfortunes of a young lady of a good family, of the most engaging accomplishments, and of beauty rivalling the most poetical description. The miseries she had, and was like to suffer from an amour satal to her health, to her honour, and to every happy prospect in life, produced this unaffected proof of a sincere pity; which if ever we feel, it must be when beauty is in distress; when the sweetest, gentless, and most artless sex are reduced to every shocking extremity, by the cruelty and persidy of our's.

If regard has been at all to the manner of any particular author, it is to that of Mr. Pope; but as few can wear the habit of another with a good grace, and whatever is borrowed ferves only to render

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the poverty of the borrower more conspicuous, it has been endeavoured to avoid so particular an imitation, as must give an opportunity of making a parallel so much to the disadvantage on one side; for, then only to have imitated can be to our reputation, when what we return is equal to what we receive.

Language is a common property, and a fimilitude of thoughts naturally arises from a similitude of subjects; if therefore any sentiments or expressions should occur which bear a resemblance to his, or those of another, it is hoped that, by giving them a different air, some right may without injustice be afferted to them. To attempt thinking and saying every thing in a new manner, is a ridiculous affectation; and after such a crowd of excellent writers, if his stille or sentiment can approach near the spirit of theirs, is at this time the utmost effort of the happiest genius.

With regard to imitation in general, every great master in poetry as well as painting, (though few must hope that title) whatever use he may make of the works of another, has a manner peculiar to himself. Michael Angelo transferred into his own designs the beauties of the antique; Raphael copied him, and others Raphael.

To have tried his skill with the two greatest poets of the last age, on a subject they seem almost to have exhausted, would have been a task dangerous to far superior abilities; nor would the Odd on the Power of Music have ever probably been wrote, had it not been at school. It was composed in blank lyrics, as an evening exercise; and although it has been much altered from the state in which it then was, the plan and story remain in some measure the same. The general subject of Music was chose to avoid a defect, if it is such, in both Mr. Pope and Mr. Dryden, whose principal character, St. Cecilia, is entirely lost in that of Orpheus and Timotheus.

In writing the VALETUDINARIAN, or Address to Health, a view was had to the Allegro of Milton, but without a formal parody of the several parts, or a particular imitation of the stile.

To these is added, an ELEGY on the DEATH of his late Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, reprinted from the Cambridge collection.

LAURA;



L A U R A:

OR,

The COMPLAINT.

Y

E deep embowering shades, and silent cells, Where pensive Penitence obscurely dwells; Ye rugged rocks, ye streams that ever flow, Still as my tears, and constant as my woe;

O hear me mourn; receive a wretched maid,
Here taught by love, and here by love betray'd;
Through all your folitary scenes I rove,
A prey to grief, to sickness, and to love.
Ah! beauteous scenes, in vain ye bloom around,
In vain ye smile, with vernal glories crown'd;

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Tho

The gentle zephyrs fan your waving bowers,
And breathe perfumes from all your opening flowers;
Nor opening flowers, nor gentle zephyrs charm,
Nor beauteous fcenes a grief like mine difarm.
Fade every flower, and languish every fense;
Ye have no sweets for fallen innocence.

In blackening storms, ye lowering clouds, arise, Ye deep-mouth'd thunders, burst the vaulted skies. O'er the scorch'd plains, sulphureous light'nings, roll, Your awful horrors sooth my tortured soul.

I'll find some darksome cave, some lonely glade,
Where the black cypress spreads its mournful shade;
O'er rugged stones, where winding ivy creeps,
Where wet with dew some grot for ever weeps;
There shall my tears in streams incessant flow,

There take this restless heart its fill of woe.

Or let me rove at midnight's awful hour

Where rears its mouldering head some antient tower;

Where walls of old immured the virgin choir,

Whose breasts ne'er felt, like mine, a guilty fire,

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Whofe

"Come, come away, to light encircled plains

And bowers of bliss, where peace for ever reigns.

Sad Penitence must teach thy soul to rise,

And ope the gates of endless paradise."

Alas! I rave, my thoughts tumultuous roll; Grief swells my heart, and guilt distracts my soul.

Now

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В

Now frightful forms, and angry dæmons rise; Now heavenly visions float before my eyes: Of happy fouls I view the facred choir, And hear th' angelic host, and golden lyre. In fiery pomp bright feraphs quit the sky, 55 And wrap my foul in holy extafy. Ah! feeble reason, whither would'st thou rove, The prey of paffion, and the sport of love? Torn by remorfe, sad victim of despair, Where shall I turn, or where address my prayer? 60 Far as the morning's earliest beams are spread, Or where the star of evening lifts its head; Far as wide earth extends, or oceans roll, Where blow the winds, or Heaven invests the pole, In vain my fluttering foul would wing its way; 65 Stern Care pursues where'er the wretched stray. Soft God of Sleep, who spreads thy peaceful reign O'er earth, o'er heaven, and all th' extended main; Who gives the labouring heart from woe to rest, Who wipes the tear, and heals the wounded breast; 70 Say,

Say, for what crime for ever flies from me	
Thy oft invok'd offended Deity?	
Or dooms my foul in horrid dreams to moure,	
On racks of wild Imagination torn?	
Why am I oft on angry billows tost,	75
Or feem to rove in dreary desarts lost?	
Why round some rapid wheel my limbs are whirl'd,	
Or through th' abyss in endless eddies hurl'd?	
Day yields to day, revolving through the skies	
The seasons change, and years on years arise;	४०
But still unchanging cares these eyes must view;	
Unchanging Guilt must e'er these steps pursue;	
Still heave my fighs, and still my tears must flow	
In all th' excess of unavailing woe.	
Once was my boast, in native beauty bright	8.5
To lead the dance, and grace each festive night;	
Amid the fair supremely fair to shine,	
And fee with conscious pride each heart was mine:	
Where'er I turn'd, a thousand nymphs admir'd;	
Whene'er I smil'd, a thousand swains expir'd.	90
В 2	I spoke,

I speke, 'twas music dwelt upon my tongue; I mov'd, a goddess, or an angel sung. My careless steps in joys were taught to rove, Each voice was flattery, and each look was love. But foon, alas! frail beauty charms no more; 93 Fled with the wings of Time, those joys are o'er. As some trim galley to the prosperous gales Her streamers waves, and spreads her silken sails; While filver oars to breathing music sweep, With measur'd strokes, the gently-heaving deep; 100 Thus down life's stream I sail'd secure and free, Nor fear'd the faithless wind, or stormy sea. But now pale forrows every grace difarm; And dim with tears, these eyes no longer charm. See, on my lips no more the ruby glows; 105 Nor warms these velvet cheeks the blooming rose. Those glossy locks, whose waving tresses spread O'er my fair neck, and grac'd my beauteous head; Uncurl'd, unhonour'd, now dishevell'd flow In all the mournful negligence of woe. CIL O why

Then

O why my limbs thus fair did Nature form? Why deck profuse with each attractive charm? Why was my foul its tender pity taught, Each fofter passion, and each generous thought? Hence fpring my forrows, hence with fighs I prove 115 How feeble woman, and how false is love. I mourn in vain, in vain my tears I shed; Far is my false, my lov'd Lorenzo sled. For thee, false youth, was every joy resign'd, Young health, fweet peace, and innocence of mind. 120 Are these the constant vows thy tongue profest, When first thou clasp'd me trembling to thy breast? Thus fwore thy lips by ocean, earth, and fky, By Hell's dread powers, and Heaven's all-piercing eye. Yawns not the grave for thee? why sleeps the storm 125 To blast thy limbs, or rend thy perjur'd form? Ah! still with scorn Lorenzo hears my pain, As rocks unmov'd, which brave the threatening main. When the pale shipwreck'd pilot shall appease With fighs the winds, with tears the rolling feas; 130

Then shall thy LAURA's prayers thy bosom move, And bring thee back to honour, and to love. Sure thou wert born among the mountains wild, 'Mid' defart woods a fierce and favage child: No female breast supply'd thy infant food, 135 Nurst with the lyon's whelps, and tyger's brood. Curse on that fatal hour thy charms were seen, While yet this heart was guiltless and serene. With thee, false man, I urg'd my hasty slight, And dar'd the horrors of the gloomy night; 140 Nor fear'd with thee thro' plains unknown to rove, Deaf to the dictates of paternal love. In vain for me a parent's tears are shed, And to the grave descends his hoary head. When at my feet in rapturous love you lay, 145 And pour'd in tender fighs your foul away; Fond foolish heart! to think the tale divine; Why started not my hands when prest in thine? Too well Remembrance paints the fatal hour, When Love, great conqueror, summon'd all his power: 150 When

When bolder grown, your glances flash'd with fire, And your pale lips all trembled with defire; Back to my heart my blood tumultuous flew; From every pore my cold limbs dropp'd a dew: When Shame prefaging spoke each future pain, 155 And struggling Virtue arm'd my foul in vain. Ye fatal joys, that once this heart possess; Ye scenes unchaste, in endless silence rest. O'er each fad thought, let gushing tears prevail, And fiery blushes hide the guilty tale. 160 Ah! faithless man, and thou more wretched maid, To guilt and grief, and mifery betray'd! Far flies thy lover; to some distant plain Now cleaves his bounding bark the peaceful main. Avenging Heaven, that heard the vows he fwore, 165 Bid howl the blackening form, and thunder roar; Till waves on waves in tumbling mountains roll, And dash with daring heads th' astonish'd pole.. Then on some plank, o'er foaming billows born,

Trembling his perjur'd faith the wretch shall mourn;

But

But mourn in vain: his vigorous arm shall fail; Guilt fink him down, and angry Heaven prevail; His pale cold limbs no friend to earth convey, But dogs and vultures tear the bloated prey. Yet ah! fond heart — O hear not Powers divine, 175 Nor too propitious think that prayer was mine. Live still, repentant live, my faithless swain; Blow foft, ye winds, and gently flow the main. Go, much-lov'd youth, with every bleffing crown'd; Go, and good angels watch thy steps around. 180 Me, to the filent shades and fad retreat, Where love's expiring flames forget their heat, Death wooes all-powerful: e'er he parts the clew, Once more thy LAURA bids her Love adieu: Bids thee be all that's lov'd, admir'd, ador'd, 185 With all that health, all affluence can afford: In ease, in mirth, glide each glad hour away; No pain to fpot thy fortune's cloudless day; No figh to swell, no tear to flow for me: O grant Heaven all, but grant thee constancy. 190 Ahl

Ah! world farewel, farewel life's fond desires, False flattering hopes, and love's tormenting fires. Already, Death, before my closing eyes Thy airy forms and glimmering sha les arise. Hark! hear I not for me you passing bell 195 Toll forth with frequent pause its sullen knell? Waits not for me yon fexton on his spade, Blithe whistling o'er the grave his toil has made? Say why in lengthen'd pomp you fable train, With measur'd steps, slow stalk along the plain? 200 Say, why you herfe with fading flowers is crown'd, And midnight gales the deep-mouth'd dirge resound? Hail, fister worms, and thou my kindred dust, Secure to you my wearied limbs I trust. Dim burns life's lamp: O death, thy work compleat, 205 And give my foul to gain her last retreat. Such as before the birth of nature fway'd, E'er springing light the first great word obey'd, Let Silence reign ---- Come, Fate, exert thy might; And darkness wrap me in eternal night.

THE

POWER of MUSIC.

An O D E.

I.

HEN from the womb of antient night,
And jarring chaos, infant nature sprung,

The circling spheres harmonious rung; While thro' the crystal realms of light

The beauteous orbs their measured dances led.

Then from the ocean's watry bed,

Like a bridegroom drest, the sun

His course with sprightly footsteps run.

Then the moon the dance begun;

And all around her filver throne

The starry hosts in glittering circles shone.

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In

The Power of MUSIC.	19
In fair proportion still they move,	
In concert sweet their sounds agree;	
Still music rules their orbs above,	
And all is order, all is harmony.	15
Hence mortals learnt the power of found;	
Hence tun'd the vocal strain	
Responsive to the lyre;	
Hence learnt to heal each rankling wound	
Of agonizing pain,	20
To lull with pleasing love, or rouze with martial fire.	
II.	
Music, 'tis thine the heart to chear,	
Whene'er by woes it finks opprest,	
From Sorrow's eye to wipe the tear,	
And footh with foftest founds the foul to rest:	25
When passions loud tumultuous rage	
Disturbs the calm which lull'd the mind,	
Thy gentle strains the storm asswage,	
And smooth the wave, and still the wind.	
. C 2	Sweet

Sweet enchantrefs of the heart,	30
When foft thy liquid numbers flow,	
Frowning Pride doth deign to hear;	
Rugged Fortune smooths her brow;	
Coward Guilt forgets to fear.	
Listening to thy tuneful art,	35
Ambition drops her arms;	
Care thinks each mighty business o'er;	
Sickness droops her head no more,	
And universal nature feels thy charms.	
Mirth and joy, and smiles arise;	40
So shines the bright ascending orb of day,	
That drives the clouds of night away,	
And gilds the smiling earth, and all th' ætherial skies.	
III.	
'Twas when the winds were roaring loud,	
And ocean fwell'd his billows high,	45
By favage hands condemn'd to die,	
Rais'd on the stern the trembling Lesbian stood.	
	All

The Power of MUSIC.	2 I
All pale he heard the tempest blow,	
As on the watry grave below	
He fix'd his weeping eye.	50
Ah! facred lust of impious gold,	
What can thy mighty rage with-hold,	
Deaf to the melting powers of harmony?	
But e'er the bard unpitied dies,	
Again his powerful art he tries,	55
Again he sweeps the strings;	
Slowly fad the notes arise,	
While thus in plaintive founds the fweet mufician fings.	
IV.	
From beneath the coral cave,	
Circled with the filver wave,	60
Where with wreaths of emerald crown'd	
Ye lead the festive dance around,	
Daughters of Nereus, hear, and save.	
Ye Tritons, hear, whose blast can swell	
With mighty founds the twisted shell;	65
	And

The Power of MUSIC.

And you, ye fister Syrens, hear, Ever beauteous, ever fweet, Who lull the listening pilot's ear With magic fong, and foftly-breath'd deceit. By all the gods, who subject roll, 70 From gushing urns their tribute to the main; By him, who bids the winds to roar; By him, whose trident shakes the shore; If e'er for you I raise the sacred strain, When pious mariners your power adore, 75 Daughters of Nereus, hear, and fave. \mathbf{V}_{\cdot} He fung, and from the coral wave Circled with the filver wave, With pitying ear 80 The Nereids hear; Gently the waters flowing, The winds now ceas'd their blowing, In 2

In filence listening to the tuneful lay,

Around the bark's fea-beaten fide

The facred dolphin play'd,

And sportive dash'd the briny tide.

The joyous omen foon the bard furvey'd:

Nor fear'd with bolder leap to try the watry way,

On his fealy back now riding,

O'er the curling billow gliding;

Again with bold triumphant hand

He bade the notes aspire,

Again to joy attun'd the lyre,

Forgot each danger past, and gain'd secure the land.

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THE

VALETUDINARIAN.

HENCE Disease, and pining Pain,
With all your pale and ghastly train,
Tossings dire, heart-piercing moans,
Sighs, and tears, and hollow groans;
That e'er with mortal bliss at strife,
Do mix with gall the sweets of life.
But whether more thou deign'st to dwell
In some low and rural cell;
Haunt'st the brink of tinkling rills,
Flowery vales, and sloping hills;
Or where the plowman turns the foil,
Do'st chear his song, and guide his toil:

Whether

The VALETUDINARIAN.	25
Whether more thou lovest to wear	
The dress and form of Dian fair,	
And bid'st thy horns sweet Echo rouze,	15
Slumbering on the mountain's brows:	
Or perhaps art wont to sport	
Where the Loves and Smiles refort,	
Jests, and Mirth, and all the train	
Of Cytherea's golden reign:	20
Hither, bright Hygeia, fly,	
With rosy cheek, and sparkling eye;	
Such as thou do'st oft appear	
When thy Heberden is near.	
Bring with thee Content and Pleasure,	25
Moderate Mirth, and useful Leisure.	
Far be wild Ambition's fires,	
Wasting Love, and fierce Defires.	
I ask not Fortune's glittering charms,	
The pride of courts, the spoils of arms:	30
By filver streams, and haunted grove,	
O give my peaceful steps to rove.	
Beneath the shade of pendant hills	
I'll listen to the falling rills:	Then

The VALETUDINARIAN.

Then on the flowery carpet green	35
Fil sit and trace the rural scene;	
While by the mimic pencil drawn,	
The herds shall seem to crop the lawn;	
The piping swain, the distant towers;	
The moss-grown, knotted oaks, and bowers,	40
As bending to the whispering breeze,	
Some thatch'd cot rifing 'mong the trees,	
In rude and artless lines design'd,	
Shall faintly mark the mafter's mind.	
Or if fost verse delight us more,	45
O grant of verse the wonderous power,	
That calls up shades of heroes bold,	
Whose virtues warm'd the times of old;	
Or which the wandering Fancy leads	
Through fylvan shades, or magic meads;	50
Or gives to truth the tuneful art	
With moral fong to mend the heart.	
Thus on through Manhood, Youth, and Age,	
Nor stain'd with guilt, nor rough with rage,	
In smooth mæanders life shall glide,	5 <i>3</i>
And roll a clear and peaceful tide.	



On the DEATH of his ROYAL HIGHNESS FREDERICK PRINCE of WALES.

WAS at the folemn hour when ghosts repair To earth, and glide along the midnight air; When all was hush'd, except a bell, whose toll Rung the fad knell of some departing soul: Musing I lay on life's uncertain date, 5 And the vain glories of this mortal state, Then funk to rest; but knew no calm repose, Still doom'd to scenes of visionary woes. Along the darken'd isles I feem'd to tread Where fleep entomb'd BRITANNIA's mighty Dead; 10 Sudden, the distant, plaintive echoes sound From vaulted roofs, and hollow tombs around. Near and more near the doubling voices rife, And gleaming tapers strike my wondering eves. At length an awful train appear'd in view, 15 All cloth'd in flowing vests of snowy hue: D 2 While

While mournful founds the organ's breath inspire,	
Responsive pealing to the pausing choir,	
Slow, folemn, fad they trod, a tuneful throng,	
And swell'd in lengthen'd notes the melancholy song.	20
With ermine robes bedeck'd, and fair array,	
Stretch'd on a bier, a form majestic lay.	
The pall, with royal arms embroider'd o'er,	
Soft as they trod, the garter'd nobles bore.	
At each flow step they drop'd a filent tear,	25
And fighing crowds of mourners clos'd the rear.	
Methought, as nigh the fad proceffion drew,	
The marble urns all sweat a clammy dew;	
Loud jar the brazen gates, the statues nod,	
And awful tremblings rock the dread abode.	30
By time-worn vaults, and manfions of the dead	
Pensive I saw the weeping order tread,	
Then figh'd, and 'woke: and now the morning came,	
The morning, big with melancholy fame.	
Our flowing tears the general loss deplore;	3 5
The Friend, the Prince, the Patriot breathes no more.	
Weep, Britain, weep, in agonizing woe,	Lo,
And rend the laurel from thy mournful brow.	, LJU ₃

Urns,

Lo, where in Death's encircling arms he lies, With him thy pride, with him thy glory dies. 40 'Tis thus in vain to transient life we trust, And each fair hope falls wither'd in the dust. O, if to bear a mild, a generous heart, To act each patriot, and each focial part, Fill every scene with dignity and ease, 45 In conscious merit ever sure to please; To be whate'er the great, the good admire, The faithful husband, and the tender fire; Ardent to gain a nation's just applause, And ever active in the public cause: 50 If, Britons, these can claim the general tear, Approach, and pour the grateful tribute here. Fate, be thy darts at vulgar bosoms hurl'd, The shame, the refuse of a selfish world; Mean fouls, who feel no interest but their own 55 Of wealth, who bow before the golden throne, Rich in the tears from orphans eyes that flow, Great and triumphant in a nation's woe: But know, dread Power, fair Virtue cannot die, She scorns the earth, and seeks her parent sky. 60

Urns, like their dead, shall moulder into dust, And Time tread down the monumental bust; The Stars must fall, the Heavens be wrap'd in fire, And Death himself by his own shafts expire: Crown'd with immortal youth shall Virtue bloom, Defy the stroke, and triumph o'er the tomb.

65

Farewel, great Soul; O may thy shade be blest, And Seraphs wast thee to eternal rest.

Farewel, great Soul, till Nature's fecond birth,
Secure we trust thy relicts to the earth.
There, till the trump shall rend th' astonish'd skies,
And with loud echoes bid the dead arise,
Sleep undisturb'd, amid that glorious train,
Whose honour'd bones you hallow'd shrines contain;
The laurell'd bard, the philosophic sage,

70

75

Warriors, who bled in freedom's glorious cause,
Patriots, whose counsels sav'd expiring laws;
Kings, whose good deeds still grateful nations tell,
Who liv'd belov'd like thee, like thee lamented fell.

Whoe'er delighted, or inform'd an age.

80

What

What tho' thy tomb no martial trophy boasts,

For ravag'd nations, and for slaughter'd hosts;

What tho' no crouching captives frown in stone,

And, bound beneath thy Statue, seem to groan;

Yet shall, where'er thy peaceful ashes sleep,

The friends of Britain, and of Freedom weep.

Each peaceful Virtue shall thy grave surround,

And musing Silence watch the holy ground.

There too the Muse her choicest wreaths shall bring,

There to thy soul her soothing requiem sing;

There to thy fame with generous labour raise

The time-defying pyramid of praise.

But O! if aught departed spirits know,

Or heavenly minds are touch'd with things below;

If those who erst to lostiest views aspir'd,

With love of same, and public virtue sir'd,

Yet urge the glorious task, ordain'd to wait

Ministrant guardians of a nation's sate,

Still as thy Britain's Genius may'st thou stand,

And o'er her kingdoms stretch thy saving hand;

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Far

Far from her thores avert with watchful care The flames of Discord, and the rage of War; Give Peace to rule, give Wealth to bless her plain, And spread her empire o'er th' unbounded main. So may kind Heaven propitious hear our prayers 115 To crown thy Father's life with length of years; And when he late the debt of nature pays, Mature in honours, as mature in days; Then may thy Offspring to the throne arise, And bless like him, like thee, a nation's eyes; 120 With equal footsteps tread the paths of fame, And join the Patriot's to the Monarch's name. Thus long as round BRITANNIA's founding shores His hoary waves embracing Ocean pours, Thy fair descendants shall the scepter sway, 125 Shall teach the willing Briton to obey, From age to age a bright succession shine, And Fate and Freedom guard the BRUNSWICK LINE.

FINIS.







